

July 11, 2005

Mr. Mark Gilbertson  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Environmental Cleanup and Acceleration, EM-20  
Office of Environmental Management  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20585

SUBJECT: SCHEDULE FOR REVIEW OF DRAFT WASTE DETERMINATION FOR SALT  
WASTE DISPOSAL AT THE SAVANNAH RIVER SITE

Dear Mr. Gilbertson:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has received your letter dated July 1, 2005, responding to NRC's Requests for Additional Information (RAI) for the draft Section 3116 waste determination for salt waste disposal at the Savannah River Site (SRS). Attached to your letter were the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE's) responses to 61 of the 68 RAIs, as well as two new supporting documents: 1) a Special Analysis (SA) completed in 2005 for the saltstone disposal facility that documents analyses based on revisions to models used in the performance assessment, and 2) a Performance Objectives Demonstration Document (PODD) that summarizes the data necessary to demonstrate compliance with the performance objectives of 10 CFR 61, Subpart C. Your letter indicated that DOE's responses to the remaining RAIs will be transmitted to the NRC but did not specify a particular date. In addition, it is our understanding that DOE intends to submit a number of additional supporting documents in the near future.

As you are aware, NRC and DOE entered into an Interagency Agreement (IA) in February 2005 which described a general schedule for review of the draft waste determination for salt disposal at SRS. The IA specified that the NRC will endeavor to complete its technical review and issue its Technical Evaluation Report (TER) within two months after receiving adequate responses to the entire RAI from DOE. The staff is currently evaluating the adequacy of the partial RAI responses and the supporting documents; however, given the incomplete RAI responses and the volume of new information submitted, the TER will not be completed with two months of DOE's July 1, 2005, submittal. Following receipt of the remaining RAI responses and the additional supporting documents from DOE, we will review all of the information and inform you of the date by which we expect to issue the TER.

If you have any questions regarding the schedule, please contact me at 301-415-6717.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Scott C. Flanders, Deputy Director  
Environmental and Performance  
Assessment Directorate  
Division of Waste Management  
and Environmental Protection  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

If you have any questions regarding the schedule, please contact me at 301-415-6717.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Scott C. Flanders, Deputy Director  
Environmental and Performance  
Assessment Directorate  
Division of Waste Management and  
Environmental Protection  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

DISTRIBUTION: EPAD r/f A. Ridge D. Esh M. O'Shaughnessy M. Thaggard  
N. Jensen

**ML051880078**

\*See previous concurrence

OFFICE	DWMEP	DWMEP	DWMEP
NAME	ABradford*	RWhited*	SFlanders
DATE	7/7/05	7/7/05	07/11/05

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY